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Claims

1. A broadband cellular network device, comprising
a base station control unit (1) adapted to control the
distribution of asynchronous transfer mode cellular traffic
consisting of asynchronous transfer mode cells,
an asynchronous transfer mode controller (2) connected
to and being controlled by said base station control unit
(1), and
an asynchronous transfer mode switching means (3) con-
nected to and being controlled by said asynchronous transfer
mode controller (2) and adapted to switch asynchronous trans-
fer mode cellular traffic.
2. A device according to claim 1, wherein said base sta-
tion control unit (1) provides either of a software, hardware
or mixed software/hardware implementation of base station
controller functions and comprises an asynchronous transfer
mode controller instruction means adapted to instruct the
asynchronous transfer mode controller (2).

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3. A device according to claim 1, wherein the asynchronous transfer mode controller (2) is arranged to provide an interface for converting commands issued by the base station controller unit (1) into commands causing switching actions of the asynchronous transfer mode switching means (3).

4. A device according to claim 3, wherein the asynchronous transfer mode controller (2) is adapted to employ asynchronous transfer mode based signalling and to provide control commands for controlling connecting hardware of the asynchronous transfer mode switching means (3).

5. Device according to ~~one of claims 3 or 4~~, wherein the asynchronous transfer mode controller (2) is arranged to comprise at least two functional layers, one of the functional layers being a cellular network related upper layer (2a) adapted to perform cellular network related functions, and one of the functional layers being an asynchronous transfer mode related lower layer (2b) adapted to perform asynchronous transfer mode switching means related functions.

6. Device according to claim 5, wherein the lower functional layer (2b) of the asynchronous transfer mode controller (2) is arranged to control the switching hardware of the asynchronous transfer mode switching means (3).

7. Device according to claim 3, wherein the asynchronous transfer mode controller (2) is adapted to be a General Switch Management Protocol (GSMP) controller, and wherein the asynchronous transfer mode switching means (3) is adapted to support said General Switch Management Protocol.

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8. Base station controller (BSC) for use in base station subsystems (BSS) in asynchronous transfer mode based cellular networks, comprising the broadband cellular network device according to one of the preceding claims.

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